NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

and

POETRY FOUNDATION

present

2006 National Finals

May 16 ▪ 7:30 pm

Lincoln Theatre ▪ Washington, DC

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest annual funder of the arts in the United States. An independent federal agency, the NEA is the official arts organization of the United States government, dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

POETRY

FOUNDATION

The Poetry Foundation is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. The Foundation publishes *Poetry* magazine, sponsors a variety of public programs, and supports creative projects in literature.

MID ATLANTIC ARTS FOUNDATION

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation celebrates, promotes, and supports the richness and diversity of the region's arts resources and works to increase access to the arts and cultures of the region and the world.

Photo by Vance Jacobs

Photo courtesy of the Poetry Foundation

Welcome to the *Poetry Out Loud* National Recitation Contest finals. This exciting new program invites the dynamic elements of theatre and spoken word to poetry instruction in high school classrooms. *Poetry Out Loud* helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

Poetry Out Loud began as a pilot program two years ago in Chicago and Washington, DC. This year all 50 states and the District of Columbia held recitation contests, thanks to the tremendous efforts of State Arts Agencies, schools, and teachers across the country. Tens of thousands of students—from Alaska to Florida, from Maine to Hawai'i—competed to be here today. This event presents the State Champions. Congratulations to everyone who participated, particularly to the students who vied in regional semi-finals earlier today for the twelve finalist slots this evening.

Competitive recitation has its roots in ancient Greece. And while all contests divide winners from losers, the oldest function of poetry is to unite a culture by sharing its common stories. Recitation of the best classic and contemporary poems is an art that continues to create and deepen communities.

Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

John Barr
President
Poetry Foundation

Host and Judges for National Finals

Host

Scott Simon, a Chicago native, brings a well-traveled perspective to his role as Host of National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition with Scott Simon*. During his career, he has covered ten wars from El Salvador to Iraq, and he has won every major award in broadcasting, including the Peabody, the Emmy, and the Columbia-Dupont. Simon also accepted the Presidential End Hunger Award for his series of reports on the 1987-88 Ethiopian civil war and drought. He hosts the quarterly PBS series, *State of Mind*, and the public television series, *Voices of Vision*. His books include the memoir *Home and Away: Memoir of a Fan*, *Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball*, and a novel, *Pretty Birds*.

Judges

Michael Dirda, a longtime reviewer and essayist for *The Washington Post Book World,* received the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for criticism. His books include two collections of essays, *Readings* and *Bound to Please*, the memoir *An Open Book,* and *Book by Book: Notes on Reading and Life*. He holds a BA in English from Oberlin College and a PhD in comparative literature from Cornell University.

Caroline Kennedy serves as Vice Chair of the Fund for Public Schools, the nonprofit organization affiliated with the New York City Department of Education. An attorney and the author or editor of six best-selling books, including *A Family of Poems, In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action,* and *Profiles in Courage for Our Time,* she is the President of the John F. Kennedy Library.

Azar Nafisi is a professor at Johns Hopkins University. She taught literature at the University of Tehran in Iran, where she was expelled from her position in 1981 for refusing to wear the mandatory Islamic veil. Her bestselling memoir, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, chronicles her teaching of the forbidden works of Western literature to a book club of former students. She left Iran for America in 1997 and lives in Washington, DC, with her family.

Curtis Sittenfeld is a graduate of Stanford University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her first novel, *Prep*, was a national bestseller and was chosen as one of the Ten Best Books of 2005 by *The New York Times*. An English teacher at St. Albans School in Washington, DC, for three years, she now lives in Philadelphia. Her second novel, *The Man of My Dreams,* has just been released.

A. B. Spellman is an author, poet, critic, and lecturer. From 1975 to 2005, Spellman worked at the National Endowment for the Arts, for the last decade of his term as a Deputy Chairman. In recognition of his service to jazz, the NEA named one of its prestigious awards the *A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy*. His numerous books and articles on the arts include *Art Tatum: A Critical Biography* and *Four Jazz Lives*. Spellman is a graduate of Howard University.

National Finals Program

Musical Prelude
The Joe McCarthy Quartet

Procession of the State Champions

Welcome
Chairman Dana Gioia, NEA

Opening Remarks
Scott Simon, Host

First Round

Remarks
President John Barr, Poetry Foundation

Second Round

Intermission
The Joe McCarthy Quartet

Announcement of Five Finalists

Final Round

Awards Ceremony

Announcement of *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion

Scholarship Prizes

National Finals

1st place	$20,000 college scholarship prize
2nd place	$10,000 college scholarship prize
3rd place	$5,000 college scholarship prize
4th-12th place	$1,000 college scholarship prize

The schools of the top 12 finalists will receive $500 for the purchase of poetry books.

State Finals

1st place	Student received $200 award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC School received $500 for the purchase of poetry books
2nd place	Student received $100 award School received $200 for the purchase of poetry books

National Endowment for the Arts *Poetry Out Loud* Team

Sally Gifford
Carrie Gilkey
Carrie Holbo
Campbell Irving
Kate Kaiser
Mela Kirkpatrick
Erika Koss
Andi Mathis
Hope O'Keeffe
John Ostrout
Liz Stark
Dan Stone

Personnel

Poetry Out Loud Project Directors

Dan Stone
National Endowment for the Arts

Stephen Young
Poetry Foundation

Administrative Partners for National Finals

Alan W. Cooper
Karen Newell
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Johanna Misey Boyer
JMB Arts Management

Poetry Foundation *Poetry Out Loud* Team

Beth Allen
Anne Halsey
Michal Percival
Caren Skoulas
Elizabeth Stigler
Stephen Young

Judges for Semi-Finals Program

Mark Dawson holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alabama, where he won an Academy of American Poets Prize and was Poetry Editor and Editor-in-Chief of *The Black Warrior Review*. A former Associate Professor at Faulkner University, he is currently Legislative Director for U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt. He lives in Washington, DC.

Suzanne Fields has been writing a twice-weekly column for *The Washington Times* since 1984 and is nationally syndicated. The author of *Like Father, Like Daughter: How Father Shapes the Woman His Daughter Becomes*, she was a regular commentator for the CNN show *CNN & Co.* Her PhD is from Catholic University, where she also taught English literature. She lives in her native Washington, DC, with her husband and three children.

Sunil Iyengar is a contributing editor for *Contemporary Poetry Review* (www.cprw.com), an online journal. A former board member of the American Poetry & Literacy Project, his reviews and essays have appeared in publications including *The Washington Post* and *The American Scholar*. Iyengar works for a health industry trade newsletter in Washington, DC, and resides in Baltimore.

E. Ethelbert Miller has been the Director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University since 1974. He is currently the board chair of the Institute for Policy Studies, and a Commissioner for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. His poetry collections include *The Migrant Worker* and *Whispers, Secrets, and Promises*. Miller received his BA from Howard University and an honorary doctorate of literature from Emory & Henry College.

Jennifer L. Nelson is the Producing Artistic Director of the African Continuum Theatre Company and President of the League of Washington Theatres. A past recipient of an NEA/TCG Early Career Director Fellowship, she is also an award-winning playwright. Her play *Torn from the Headlines* won the 1996 Helen Hayes Award for Most Outstanding New Play. Nelson has taught in the theatre departments of George Washington University, American University, George Mason University, and UCLA.

Dominique Raccah is the founder and CEO of Sourcebooks, Inc., an independent trade publishing house. Formerly employed by the Leo Burnett advertising firm in Chicago, Raccah left the agency 15 years ago to start Sourcebooks, which has been recognized as the fastest-growing publisher in the industry. Born in Paris, France, she earned her MA in quantitative psychology from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Semi-Finals Program

Semi-Final One
10:30 am

Semi-Final Two
12:45 pm

Semi-Final Three
3:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions
Dan Stone
Stephen Young

Hosts
David Kipen
Felicia Knight

First Round

Second Round

Awards Presentation

Announcement of Finalists

2006 State

Alabama
Keturah Nix
Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School

Alaska
Naphtali Leyland Fields
Kodiak High School

Arizona
Jordan McAlpin
Cactus High School

Arkansas
Roshundalyn J. Scribner
Hall Senior High School

California
Ken Huffman
Elk Grove High School

Colorado
Passion Lyons
Gateway High School

Connecticut
Mary Falkowski
Rockville High School

Delaware
Simone Aziza Seal
Padua Academy

District of Columbia
Katherine Feliz
Bell Multicultural High School

Florida
Craig B. Williams
Atlantic Technical Center and Magnet High School

Georgia
Michelle Arielle McIntyre
Centennial High School

Hawai'i
Kellie Taulia Anae
Mid Pacific Institute

Idaho
Jessica Lodal
Borah High School

Illinois
Ariela Morgan Rotenberg
Walter Payton College Prep

Indiana
Kathryn Brunton
University High School

Iowa
Ashley Baccam
East High School

Kansas
Andrew Toburen
Cair Paravel Latin School

Kentucky
Kendra Holloway
Christian County High School

Louisiana
Shelby Leigh Taylor
Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Maine
Riva Y. Dumont
Erskine Academy

Maryland
Natalie P. Green
Broadneck High School

Massachusetts
Vinh Hua
Boston Latin School

Michigan
Travis B. J. Walter
Holt High School

Minnesota
Tottiana Adams
Central High School

Mississippi
Ryan Breeland
Brookhaven High School

Champions

Missouri
Aislinn Lowry
Jefferson City High School

Montana
Cassin LaFountaine
Helena High School

Nebraska
Shuqiao Song
Lincoln East High School

Nevada
Gibran Baydoun
Green Valley High School

New Hampshire
Teal Van Dyck
Bow High School

New Jersey
Teika Monai Chapman
Trenton Central High School

New Mexico
Fantasia Lonjose
Santa Fe Indian School

New York
Danielle N. Lehman
Shaker High

North Carolina
Courtney Temple Ross
Raleigh Charter High School

North Dakota
Ryan Arthur Berry
Shanley High School

Ohio
Jackson Hille
Columbus Alternative High School

Oklahoma
Alexzandria Ward
Putnam City West High School

Oregon
Michael Santiago
The Center for Advanced Learning

Pennsylvania
Chris Estevez
West Scranton High School

Rhode Island
Kris Aponte
William M. Davies Career and Technical Institute

South Carolina
Elizabeth Stepp
Richland Northeast High School

South Dakota
Kayla Jackmon
Washington High School

Tennessee
R. Leo Moucka II
Christ Presbyterian Academy

Texas
Jacqueline C. Pirtle
Spring Woods Senior High School

Utah
Madison Niermeyer
Skyline High School

Vermont
Anna Catherine Svagzdys
Montpelier High School

Virginia
Johnny Coyle
St. Christopher's School

Washington
Mollie Anne McComb
Ranier High School

West Virginia
Brook Johnson
Sissonville Senior High School

Wisconsin
Anjuli Joshi Brekke
James Madison Memorial High School

Wyoming
Kamaria Stephens
Cheyenne East

Semi-Finals One, 10:30 am

Connecticut

Mary Falkowski

"Forgetfulness" by Billy Collins
"Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold

Delaware

Simone Aziza Seal

"Bitch" by Carolyn Kizer
"Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall

District of Columbia

Katherine Feliz

"Song" by Edmund Waller
"Let It Be Forgotten" by Sara Teasdale

Maine

Riva Y. Dumont

"La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad" by John Keats
"Beauty" by Tony Hoagland

Maryland

Natalie P. Green

"The Spider and the Fly" by Mary Howitt
"No Coward Soul Is Mine" by Emily Brontë

Massachusetts

Vinh Hua

"A Supermarket in California" by Allen Ginsberg
"Alabanza: In Praise of Local 100" by Martín Espada

New Hampshire

Teal Van Dyck

"A Supermarket in California" by Allen Ginsberg
"Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood

New Jersey

Teika Monai Chapman

"Bitch" by Carolyn Kizer
"Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo

New York

Danielle N. Lehman

"In Memoriam: Martin Luther King, Jr." by June Jordan
"Ma Rainey" by Sterling A. Brown

North Carolina

Courtney Temple Ross

"In the Basement of the Goodwill Store" by Ted Kooser
"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Ohio

Jackson Hille

"A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous General" by Jonathan Swift
"Altruism" by Molly Peacock

Pennsylvania

Chris Estevez

"Bilingual/Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espaillat
"Salomé" by Ai

Rhode Island

Kris Aponte

"We Wear the Mask" by Paul Laurence Dunbar
"Romance" by Claude McKay

South Carolina

Elizabeth Stepp

"Conversation" by Ai
"A Supermarket in California" by Allen Ginsberg

Vermont

Anna Catherine Svagzdys

"Lunar Baedeker" by Mina Loy
"Sentimental" by Albert Goldbarth

Virginia

Johnny Coyle

"Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold
"Meditation at Lagunitas" by Robert Hass

West Virginia

Brook Johnson

"We Wear the Mask" by Paul Laurence Dunbar
"The Tyger" by William Blake

Semi-Finals Two, 12:45 pm

Alabama

Keturah Nix

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
Sonnet 116, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds" by William Shakespeare

Arkansas

Roshundalyn J. Scribner

"Learning to Love America" by Shirley Geok-lin Lim
"Bilingual/Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espaillat

Florida

Craig B. Williams

"Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes
"I Knew a Woman" by Theodore Roethke

Georgia

Michelle Arielle McIntyre

"Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood
"Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold

Illinois

Ariela Morgan Rotenberg

"I Go Back to May 1937" by Sharon Olds
"The Secret Garden" by Rita Dove

Indiana

Kathryn Brunton

"I think I should have loved you presently" by Edna St. Vincent Millay
"Fierce Girl Playing Hopscotch" by Alice Fulton

Iowa

Ashley Baccam

"Deliberate" by Amy Uyematsu
"Conversation" by Ai

Kansas

Andrew Toburen

"Dulce et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen
"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

Kentucky

Kendra Holloway

"Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall
"To the Ladies" by Lady Mary Chudleigh

Louisiana

Shelby Leigh Taylor

"Why I Am Not a Painter" by Frank O'Hara
"So This Is Nebraska" by Ted Kooser

Michigan

Travis B. J. Walter

"Analysis of Baseball" by May Swenson
"Beat! Beat! Drums!" by Walt Whitman

Mississippi

Ryan Breeland

"Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer
"Pied Beauty" by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Missouri

Aislinn Lowry

"When I consider how my light is spent" by John Milton
"The Spider and the Fly" by Mary Howitt

Nebraska

Shuqiao Song

"Kubla Khan" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
"Fever 103°" by Sylvia Plath

Oklahoma

Alexzandria Ward

"Beauty" by Tony Hoagland
"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

Tennessee

R. Leo Moucka II

Sonnet 116, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds" by William Shakespeare
"England in 1819" by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Wisconsin

Anjuli Joshi Brekke

"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll
"I Am Learning To Abandon the World" by Linda Pastan

Semi-Finals Three, 3:00 pm

Alaska

Naphtali Leyland Fields

"Unknown Girl in the Maternity Ward" by Anne Sexton
"Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood

Arizona

Jordan McAlpin

"Litany" by Billy Collins
"Beauty" by Tony Hoagland

California

Ken Huffman

"O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman
"Detroit, Tomorrow" by Philip Levine

Colorado

Passion Lyons

"Beautiful Black Men" by Nikki Giovanni
"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

Hawai'i

Kellie Taulia Anae

"Hysteria" by Dionisio D. Martínez
"Bitch" by Carolyn Kizer

Idaho

Jessica Lodal

"If" by Rudyard Kipling
"Bilingual/Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espaillat

Minnesota

Tottiana Adams

"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou
"The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes

Montana

Cassin LaFountaine

"Danse Russe" by William Carlos Williams
"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by William Butler Yeats

Nevada

Gibran Baydoun

"Sympathy" by Paul Laurence Dunbar
"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas

New Mexico

Fantasia Lonjose

"Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo
"The Powwow at the End of the World" by Sherman Alexie

North Dakota

Ryan Arthur Berry

"Kubla Khan" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge
"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

Oregon

Michael Santiago

"Why I Am Not a Painter" by Frank O'Hara
"The Listeners" by Walter de la Mare

South Dakota

Kayla Jackmon

"The Poet" by Yone Noguchi
"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

Texas

Jacqueline C. Pirtle

"[if mama/could see]" by Lucille Clifton
"Beautiful Black Men" by Nikki Giovanni

Utah

Madison Niermeyer

"Chicago" by Carl Sandburg
"A Supermarket in California" by Allen Ginsberg

Washington

Mollie Anne McComb

"Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall
"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

Wyoming

Kamaria Stephens

"Poetry" by Marianne Moore
"Unknown Girl in the Maternity Ward" by Anne Sexton

Acknowledgements

When the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation decided to launch *Poetry Out Loud* nationally, we needed to find the perfect partners. Since *Poetry Out Loud* exists in so many layers, from the classroom to the state to the national level, organizing and running the program is no small task. We found those perfect partners in the State Arts Agencies and their collaborators. Their expertise and candor helped us shape the expansion of *Poetry Out Loud.* Our deepest thanks to this intelligent and passionate group of folks.

We also applaud the thousands of teachers who integrated *Poetry Out Loud* into their classrooms on short notice, and we thank the supportive parents of our State Champions. Without them, none of us would be here.

Thanks to the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, particularly Karen Newell and Johanna Misey Boyer, for helping to manage and coordinate all the labyrinthine logistics of the National Finals.

The Poetry Foundation is grateful for the following gifts to each State Champion:

- Sourcebooks, Inc., for the donation of *Poetry Speaks*
- Copper Canyon Press, for the donation of *Delights and Shadows*
- Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, for personally signing *Delights and Shadows*

The Joe McCarthy Quartet

Joe McCarthy, *Drums*
Max Murray, *Bass*
Gary Malvaso, *Guitar*
Steve Williams, *Alto Saxophone*

In Memoriam

Cliff Becker

Former NEA Director of Literature
and Co-Founder of *Poetry Out Loud*

July 22, 1964 - May 17, 2005

We dedicate our efforts to you.

A man's growth is seen
in the successive choirs of his friends.
–Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.

www.poetryoutloud.org

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